

TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Historical Facts about the Iredell County Public Library

Compiled by Joel Reese

Library Established

1921

Notable Librarians

Mrs. R. S. "Estelle" McElwee was the first librarian. She began working at the Iredell County Public Library in 1921.

First Bookmobile

The county library was an outgrowth of bookbinding projects during Works Progress Administration (WPA) days. This marked the beginning of the Iredell County Library which operated separate from the Statesville Public Library. The Iredell County Library operated as a bookmobile operation exclusively until the fall of 1954.

The first bookmobile was a converted school bus acquired by the Iredell County Board of Education mainly to supplement the County school libraries. T. Ward Guy, the Superintendent of the Iredell County Schools at the time is credited with obtaining this first. Books for the bookmobile were borrowed from the North Carolina Library Commission, the Statesville Public and Mooresville Public Library. Total circulation for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1936 was 14,181 which were up 3,675 over the same quarter the previous year in 1935 when circulation was 10,506.